

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CAB-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00

FAA-00 SY-05 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /103 W

----- 087107

P R 181730Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4849

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 2607

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR EAIR CASC MR

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: SECURITY OF HUGHES AIRWEST PERSONNEL
IN MAURITANIA

REF: STATE 297371

1. MESSAGE FROM HUGHES AIRWEST (HAW) VICE PRESIDENT
FOR OPERATIONS ALTMAN WAS GIVEN TO HAW RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE
PITTS THIS MORNING. PITTS NOTED THAT ONE HAW
EMPLOYEE WAS IN NOUADHIBOU DECEMBER 17 AND FOUR HAW
EMPLOYEES ARE IN ZOUARTE TODAY IN EFFORT TO RETURN
DISABLED AIR MAURITANIE DC-3. PITTS SAID HE WILL NO
LONGER ALLOW HAW EMPLOYEES TO GO TO AIRFIELDS IN VICINITY
OF SPANISH SAHARA BORDER UNLESS HE IS GIVEN EXPLICIT
PERMISSION BY HIS HEADQUARTERS. PITTS WILL SEND LETTER
TO THIS EFFECT TO AIR MAURITANIE, CITING REASON FOR
DECISION AS CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF HAW EMPLOYEES.

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2. FYI: BY WAY OF BACKGROUND: EMBASSY TOLD HUGHES CHIEF

PITTS THREE DAYS AGO (MOMENT WE LEARNED WHAT WAS GOING ON) THAT WE BELIEVED IT UNSAFE TO CONTINUE TO SEND HAW EMPLOYEES TO AIRFIELDS NEAR SPANISH SAHARA BORDER. DCM, IN PRESENCE OF LAGOS-BASED FAA REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL AND GIRM DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION SAFRANEK, STRONGLY ADVISED PITTS TO DISCONTINUE PRACTICE OF SENDING HIS EMPLOYEES TO THOSE AREAS. HAVING VOLUNTEERED THIS ADVICE, EMBASSY DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS POSITION TO GO ANY FURTHER. END FYI.

3. ONLY OTHER AMERICAN COMPANY WITH PERSONNEL RESIDENT IN MAURITANIA IS LANG/PRITCHARD. EMBASSY ASKED LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE ON DECEMBER 16 TO ADVISE HIS STAFF TO STAY AWAY FROM BORDER AREA AND PARTICULARLY TO AVOID NOUADHIBOU. AS RESULT OF THIS WARNING, SEVERAL LANG/PRITCHARD PEOPLE REROUTED THROUGH DAKAR PLANNED TRIP TO LAS PALMAS. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WHO PLAN TO TRAVEL TO BORDER REGION IN NEAR FUTURE, ALTHOUGH H.K. FERGUSON REPRESENTATIVE, JOHN MONTGOMERY MAKES OCCASIONAL UNANNOUNCED TRIPS TO NOUADHIBOU. HE CAN BE REACHED IN CLEVELAND AT (216) 523-5638.HANDYSIDE

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